

Governance Committee Minutes
Trustee Thomas Dortch, Chair
February 16, 2022

The Governance Committee met on Wednesday, February 16, 2022. A quorum was established, with the following committee members in attendance: Thomas Dortch, Michael Dubose, Kimberly Moore, Belvin Perry, Kenny Stone, Nicole Washington, and Carrington Whigham.

The first action item was the approval of the December 1, 2021 committee meeting minutes. Trustee Dubose moved approval of the minutes. The motion was seconded by Trustee Perry and the motion was carried unanimously.

Trustee Dortch recognized Attorney Shira Thomas to have a preliminary discussion regarding revisions to the Board’s Operating Procedures. Attorney Thomas shared that the General Counsel’s Office and the Board Liaison have completed a review of the procedures. The outcome of the review included proposed revisions to Articles 2 – 8, 10, and the Governance Committee Charter. The rationale for the revisions includes alignment of language with actual BOT practices, streamlining processes and procedures, clarification of some procedures, as well a benchmarking from other institutions. This review was offered as a prelude to the Governance Committee workshop. Trustee Dortch indicated that he wanted the Board to review the proposals for discussion during the workshop and then they will bring back final proposals to the June Board meeting.

Trustee Dubose suggested that the Board continue to require annual reviews, where the word “periodically” was suggested. Trustee Dortch replied that the Committee will address those kinds of issues during the workshop. In response to Trustee Harper’s question regarding attendance, Trustee Dortch confirmed that all trustees are invited to attend and participate in the workshop and that they should submit their thoughts regarding any changes, before the workshop.

Trustee Dortch asked Attorney Danielle McBeth to provide the Government Relations update. She informed the Board that the Legislature was in week six of their nine-week session. She stated that the House and Senate are considering their budget proposals. She provided an update on the status of the University’s Legislative Budget Requests:

- Operational enhancement for elevating and sustaining students’ access will likely be considered during the conference process.
- There is \$6.6 million included for the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering in the House version of the bill.
- There is pending funding for campus-wide utility infrastructure, with \$1million in the House version of that bill. Both the House and Senate currently include the \$1.5 million for the Peaden Education Center.
- Senate Bill 1916/HB 1407 establishes a Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program to address food insecurity on public post-secondary campuses.

Attorney McBeth shared that FAMU Day at the Capitol is scheduled for February 24, 2022. She stated that there will be a Zoom link to allow participation for trustees who cannot attend.

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She added that the University's FY 2022 programmatic requests are still pending on the federal level. In closing her report, she introduced Mila Thompson, the new assistant director of government relations.

Trustee Dortch reviewed the timelines for the development of President Robinson's annual goals, completion of the President's annual evaluation, and completion of the Board's self-evaluation. Chair Lawson shared that the date for the Board's annual retreat was changed to provide additional time for the Office of Assessment to prepare the reports that will be used during the retreat.

With there being no further business, the meeting adjourned.